



# Making RTI<sup>2</sup> Work for Students

## High School RTI<sup>2</sup> Implementation

# Department Strategic Plan

## SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

### GOAL #1



Tennessee will continue its rapid improvement and rank in the top half of states by 2019.

#### MEASUREMENT

We will rank in the top half of states on 4th and 8th grade NAEP in 2019.

### GOAL #2



The average ACT score in Tennessee will be a 21, allowing more students to earn HOPE scholarships.

#### MEASUREMENT

Tennessee will have an average public ACT composite score of 21 by 2020.

### GOAL #3



A majority of high school graduates will go on to earn a certificate or degree.

#### MEASUREMENT

The class of 2020 will be on track to achieve 55% postsecondary completion within six years.

# Why is RTI<sup>2</sup> necessary in high school?

CHATTANOOGA — Ninety people applied to become police officers in an East Tennessee town during 2014 but only 15 managed to pass the department's initial written test — which is simply designed to measure skills such as reading comprehension, following directions and logic.

# Success after graduation

71,403 Students  
2008 Cohort of High School Freshmen



**9,089 students** did not graduate from high school



**22,444 students** graduated from high school and entered the workforce and earn an average salary of **\$9,161 annually**



**39,748 students** enrolled in postsecondary.

**75 percent were still enrolled** in one year (or 26,149 of the 34,691 who enrolled immediately after graduation).

**1,811 completed** a certificate or degree within two years.

# What is RTI<sup>2</sup>?

## Tennessee RTI<sup>2</sup> Model

### Guiding Principles

- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Culture of Collaboration
- ▶ Prevention & Early Intervention

### **TIER I** All **80–85%**

**ALL students** receive research-based, high quality, general education instruction using Tennessee State Standards in a positive behavior environment that incorporates ongoing universal screening and ongoing assessment to inform instruction.

### **TIER II** Some **10–15%**

**In ADDITION to Tier I**, interventions are provided to students that fall below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile on universal screening and are struggling academically and/or behaviorally. Research-based interventions will be provided to students within their specific area(s) of deficit. These students are progress monitored using a tool that is sensitive to change in area of deficit and that provides a Rate of Improvement (ROI) specific to the individual deficit.

### **TIER III** Few **3–5%**

**In ADDITION to Tier I**, interventions are provided to students who have not made significant progress in Tier II, are 1.5–2.0 grade levels behind or are below the 10th percentile. Tier III interventions are more explicit and more intensive than Tier II interventions. Research-based interventions will be provided to students within their specific area(s) of deficit. These students, who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally are progress monitored using a tool that is sensitive to change in area of deficit and that provides a Rate of Improvement (ROI) specific to the individual deficit.



Increasing Support for Students



# What is RTI<sup>2</sup>?

“Response to Intervention is not a new concept. RTI is about providing good teaching, seeing how it is working, and then making adjustments when needed.”

Gibbs, D. (2009). RTI in middle and high school: Strategies and structures for literacy success. Horsham, PA: LRP

# Response to Intervention is...

- A set of processes for coordinating high quality service delivery in schools
- A multi-tiered, layered instructional approach that prevents problems first, and then brings increasingly intense interventions to students who don't respond
- Making instructional decisions based on data
- Providing relevant data for special education identification
- Improving academic (and behavioral) outcomes for all students by eliminating discrepancies between actual and expected performance

Source: Fletcher, Jack (2013) *Classifications and Definitions for the Identification of Learning Disabilities: An Evaluation of the Research*. Presentation for RTI<sup>2</sup>: A School Psychologist's Guide to Implementation. Murfreesboro, TN.

# Response to Intervention is NOT:

- Just a special education initiative
- Only for students with disabilities
- Only for beginning reading
- A new way to identify students with a specific learning disability
- A way of reducing costs or eliminating special education or the learning disability category
- This year's summer reform or a short-term implementation based on "RTI in a Box"
- A way to fix schools with weak core instruction

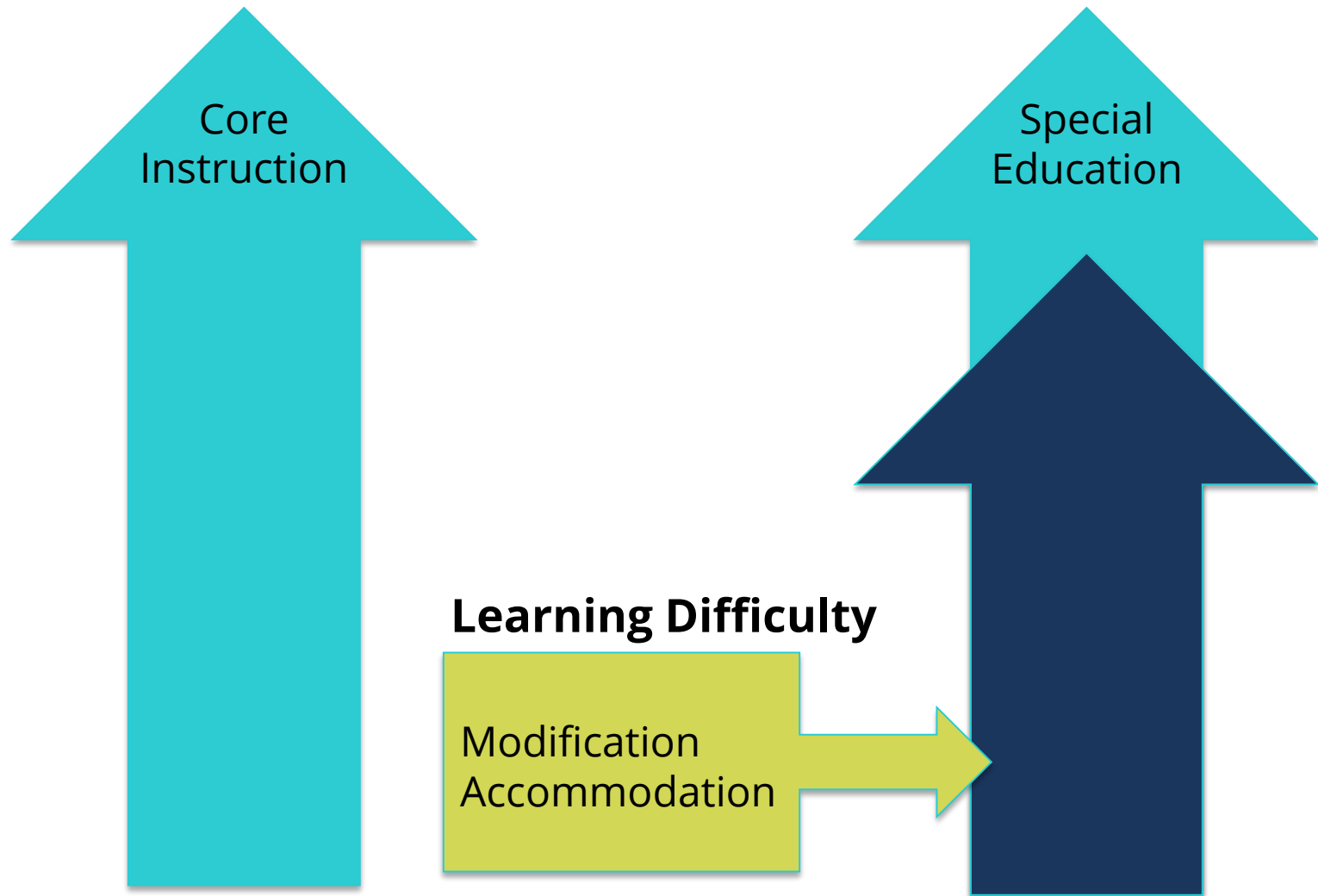
Source: Fletcher, Jack (2013) *Classifications and Definitions for the Identification of Learning Disabilities: An Evaluation of the Research*. Presentation for RTI<sup>2</sup>: A School Psychologist's Guide to Implementation. Murfreesboro, TN.



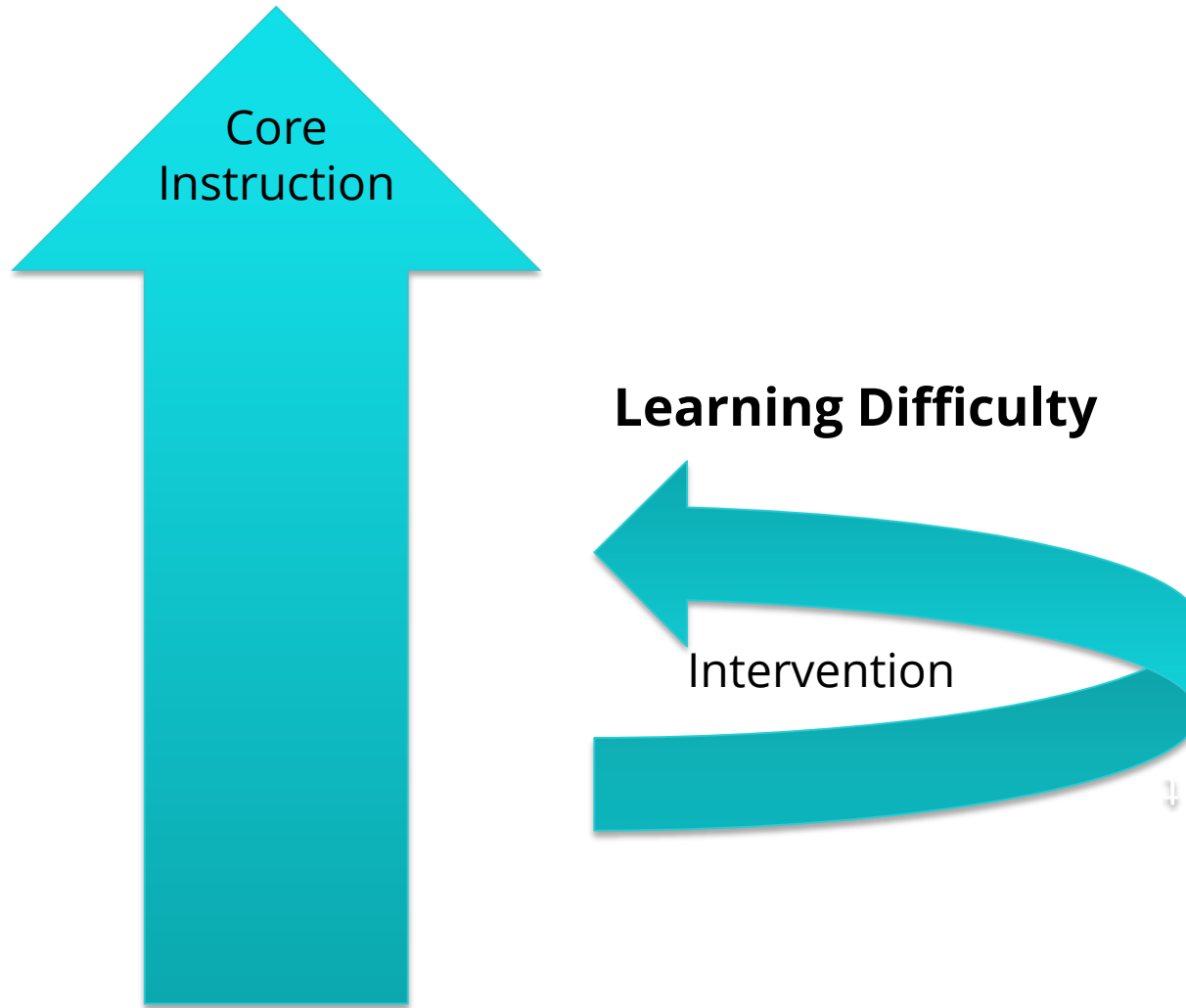
# Before RTI<sup>2</sup>: “Wait to Fail”

- Students who struggled academically were referred to special education
- Interventions were not necessarily aligned to skill deficits
- Missed opportunities for preventative strategies to keep students from acquiring significant skill deficits

# Former Learning Pathway



# RTI<sup>2</sup> Learning Pathway



# Benefits of RTI<sup>2</sup>

- Timely interventions to meet student needs
- Individualized plan for each student
- Progress data to measure growth
- Closes achievement gaps
- Increases achievement
- Stronger students

⇒ **Better postsecondary outcomes & opportunities**

# Requirements

- Core Instruction (Tier I)
- RTI<sup>2</sup> Leadership Team
- Universal Screening and/or Early Warning System
- Survey level diagnostic assessment
- Research-based intervention (Tier II and Tier III)
- Progress monitoring
- Fidelity checks
- Parent communication
- Trained intervention teachers

# TDOE Implementation Checklist

- ✓ Chronological checklist for RTI<sup>2</sup> Leadership Team meetings and major decisions
- ✓ Sequenced and organized to help you manage month-by-month from January–July
- ✓ Online timeline includes specific references and resources

# Coming soon...

- Regular RTI<sup>2</sup> updates in CCR Update
- Revised & updated RTI<sup>2</sup> Implementation Guide
- Supplements directly aligned to the Implementation Checklist (including “Promising Practices” case studies)
- Webinar: Strategies to Prepare for the ACT (Feb. 18)
- March Integrated Leadership PLCs
- Summer Training: Secondary Literacy Intervention

# Contact Information

Jerre Maynor

Director of Student Readiness

Office of Student Readiness & Early Postsecondary

[Jerre.Maynor@tn.gov](mailto:Jerre.Maynor@tn.gov)

(615)253-3780